

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3020

S E C R E T USNATO 5863

E.O. 11652

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: CEP: CURRENT OIL SITUATION: NETHERLANDS DEMARCHE

REF: A. USNATO 5837

B. USNATO 5467

C. USNATO 5864

SUMMARY: AS REPORTED IN REFERENCE CABLES, US AND NETHERLANDS REPS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RECONCILE VIEWPOINTS AS TO: (A) OIL SCENARIO IN HILEX-6, AND (B) WORK TO BE DONE IN CIVIL EMERGENCY IN AC/12 (PETROLEUM PLANNING COMMITTEE) AND IN AC/288 (STUDY GROUP ON THE ALLIANCE AND THE PROBLEM OF OIL SUPPLIES). DUTCH DEPUTY PERMREP HAS REQUESTED UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF DELICATE POSITION OF THE NETHERLANDS. RECOMMEND WE PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT IN COMMITTEES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSION AT LOWER COMMITTEE LEVELS, THE US REP HAD SUGGESTED TO HIS NETHERLANDS COLLEAGUE THAT DIFFERENCE OF OPINIONS OBVIOUSLY NOT BASED ON TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BUT ON POLITICAL PROBLEM FACED BY NETHERLANDS REP.

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2. MR. BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS DEPUTY PERMREP) CONTACTED DCM (MCAULIFFE) TO SOLICIT US UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE NETHERLANDS POSITION REGARDING THE SENSITIVE PROBLEM OF OIL SUPPLIES BEING CONSIDERED IN PETROLEUM

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND STUDY GROUP. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE NETHERLANDS COULD AGREE, IF NECESSARY, TO SOME ADJUSTMENTS REGARDING SCENARIO FOR HILEX, ANY DISCUSSIONS IN NATO CONCERNING STOCKS WOULD INEVITABLY INVOLVE SUBMISSION OF DATA WHICH COULD BE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT AND EMBARRASSING TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT. THIS CONSIDERATION WAS THE UNDERLYING REASON FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LEVEL. MCAULIFFE ADVISED HE UNDERSTOOD THE DUTCH SITUATION AND WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE SUPPORT THE DUTCH POSITION REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF THEIR OIL STOCKS POSITION IN CURRENT STUDIES. HOWEVER, THE AC/288 STUDY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED PER COUNCIL GUIDANCE BASED ON EXISTING PUBLISHED DATA DRAWN MAINLY FROM OECD REPORTS.
RUMSFELD

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